

Appl. No. 09/870,010
Amdt. Dated September 29, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2005

Attorney Docket No.83300.0003
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gase (U.S. Patent No. 6,184,996). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The present invention teaches a system of managing image data in a network (*See Abstract*). In particular, claim 1 teaches the network system having an image input device and an image forming device which includes storage sections for storing image data inputted by the image input device. At least one of the image input device and the image forming device are connected to the network. Moreover, the network system has a client computer connecting to the network to manage the image data stored in the storage sections via the network.

Gase is generally directed toward a method of remotely controlling a print queue in a network printer which receives print jobs over the Internet from plural client processors. (*See Gase, Abstract*). According to Gase, the printer contains a server, a queue manager, a browser, and a formatter. (*See Gase, Figure 1; col. 3, lines 12-30*). Gase also teaches a scanner connected to the network which can communicate with the network printer. (*See Gase, Figure 1; col. 2, line 67 – col. 3, line 1*). While the present invention can reduce load acting on network traffic by storage data as binary data, Gase does not teach that at all.

Applicant respectfully submits that Gase cannot anticipate claim 1 because Gase fails to teach or suggest the limitation, "an image forming device including storage means for storing image data inputted by the image input device," as required by claim 1. Gase teaches an image forming device which contains a "job queue." (*See Gase, col. 3, line 24*). The job queue contains the URLs of received

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print jobs. When a URL is reached on the job queue, the image forming device causes the browser to transmit a request to the client processor wherein the print data corresponding to the URL is located. (*See Gase, col. 3, lines 26-28*). The client processor then sends the print job to the image forming device, which prints the data. (*See Gase, col. 3, lines 28-30*). Gase also teaches a scanner which can send a URL of a scanned document text file to the image forming device, where the document is stored in the scanner itself. (*See Gase, Figure 1; col. 4, lines 50-64*). If the URL in the job queue corresponds to a document located in the scanner, the image forming device will request the file from the scanner before printing it. (*See Gase, col. 4, lines 54-61*).

In contrast, present claim 1 is directed to an image forming device having a storage means *for storing image data* inputted by the image input device. The image forming device in Gase only stores URL references to image data stored on client processors or a scanner; it does not store the image data itself. Further, when a printer prints any text data, bitmap data is stored in a memory temporarily. However, a temporary memory for storing bitmap data and the storage means for storing image data of the present invention are not the same. Therefore, Gase does not teach or suggest "an image forming device including storage means for storing image data inputted by the image input device" as required by claim 1.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits independent claim 1 is patentable over Gase. Independent claim 3 includes the limitation, "storing image data inputted by the image input device in storage means of the image forming device," which makes it patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims are thus respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/870,010
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CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by Gase in view of Kurachi (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,436). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Kurachi is generally directed toward a system of managing print data. (See *Kurachi*, *Abstract*). Kurachi teaches a print managing system having a network, a network printer, and client apparatus such as a personal computer. (See *Kurachi*, *Figure 1*; *col. 7, lines 10-15*). Kurachi does not teach scanners or image input devices connecting to the network. Therefore, Kurachi fails to teach or suggest the limitation, "an image forming device including storage means for storing image data inputted by the image input device" as required by independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Kurachi cannot remedy the deficiency of Gase with regard to claim 1. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and cannot be rendered obvious by Gase in view of Kurachi for at least the same foregoing reasons. Claim 3 includes the limitation, "storing image data inputted by the image input device in storage means of the image forming device," so it cannot be rendered obvious by Gase in view of Kurachi for at least the same reasons as presented for claim 1. Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and cannot be rendered obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 3. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Both Kurachi and Gase fail to teach or suggest the limitation "the storage means comprises a binary data storage section for storing the image data as binary data and a text data storage section for storing text data converted from the binary data by the converter" as required by claim 2. The present invention discloses converting image data to text data for system management. Moreover, the present invention discloses that an OCR converter, or optical character reader converter, may be used as the converter. (See *Specification*, *page 7, line 28 – page 8, line 4*). In contrast, Kurachi teaches converting image data to rough image data

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by reducing the size or quality of the images. (*See Kurachi, col. 2, lines 59-63*). Furthermore, since the rough image is a small image like a sum nail image, when the rough image is printed, a printed image is small and rough, so it is quite different from an original image. In the present invention, since text data is converted from image data, the printed text data is almost the same as original image. Accordingly, Kurachi fails to teach or suggest converting the image data into text data as required by claim 2.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits claim 2 is patentable over Gase and Kurachi. Claim 4, which includes the limitation, "the character image is stored in two data formats of binary data and text data, the text data being made by converting the binary data," is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 2. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims are thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6810 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 29, 2005

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